

Since it has been demonstrated that it is possible for very young children to successfully obtain a Technician class license, I disagree with the notion put forth in RM-10870 that the Technician class exam is "overly complex." I also don't believe in blindly combining different license classes together, without administering the proper examinations, just to keep the number of licenses at three in order to introduce yet another new Communicator class. I further disagree with the assertion that in eliminating the morse code requirement, "there will be no effective difference between the Technician and General class licenses." If there was no difference, then the only thing you would need to do beyond a Technician class license in order to get a General class license is take a morse code exam, which isn't true. The General class written exam is a worthwhile step in advancing to the next level, and has a significant number of items that are not found in the Technician class exam. I also don't believe refarming HF band segments is necessary either. It is my understanding that just because there are Novice/Tech. Plus segments designated within the HF bands, it doesn't preclude anyone else with a higher license class from using them. Besides, reducing the CW, RTTY, and Digital HF segments to expand the Phone segments would not only reduce the space in each band allowed for CW, but it would also reduce the space allowed for digital modes. My suggestion would be to keep both the Technician and Extra class licenses as is. However, if opening up the HF bands to more operators is the goal, drop the morse code requirement from the General class license, and naturally eliminate CW as an operating mode for new General class licensees, but preserve the CW, RTTY, and Data band segments, as well as the voluntary band plans organized by the ARRL which are currently in place.